

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

'Date of transcription 10/08/2001

[redacted] also known as (aka) [redacted]
 date of birth (DOB) [redacted] Social Security Number [redacted]
 [redacted] Portland, Maine, home phone number [redacted]
 [redacted] e-mail address [redacted] was interviewed at
 the Portland, Maine Resident Agency of the FBI. After being advised of
 the identity of the interviewing agents and the purpose of the
 interview, [redacted] provided the following information:

Additional details regarding the trip [redacted] took with [redacted]
 [redacted] (DOB: [redacted]) to Los Angeles (LA) sometime between
 December 1999 and February 2000, are provided below. (For reference,
 see FD-302s of interviews with [redacted] on 10/06/2001 and 10/07/2001).

One day [redacted] mentioned to [redacted] that his visa
 was going to expire. [redacted] needed help and asked [redacted] about the
 paperwork. [redacted] showed [redacted] some of the forms and papers. [redacted]
 [redacted] was under the impression that he had to leave the country and
 get his visa renewed. Then he would be able to return to the United
 States (U.S.). [redacted] advised [redacted] against leaving the country
 and told him he should take care of the matter through the embassy in
 the U.S. [redacted] told him to call the embassy. This conversation
 occurred at [redacted] apartment in San Diego.

Approximately one or two weeks passed and he saw [redacted]
 at the Islamic Center of San Diego (ICSD) mosque. [redacted] brought
 the visa subject up once again. [redacted] said he called the Saudi
 embassy and they advised they could take care of the matter. [redacted]
 [redacted] invited [redacted] to come along on the trip. [redacted] needed to
 take to the consulate in LA. [redacted] told [redacted] he knew a good
 restaurant to stop at and eat in LA. [redacted] advised that
 restaurant serves good food and is Halal. He asked [redacted] if he ever
 saw the new mosque in or near Culver City. [redacted] had not been to the
 mosque. [redacted] believes the mosque is on or near Washington Street.
 [redacted] said they would visit the mosque afterwards. The trip had
 no set criteria. It centered around [redacted] going to the consulate.
 [redacted] wanted to go the following day and extended the invitation.
 [redacted] agreed to go. There was no pressure or coercion. [redacted] noted
 that in Islam one does not reject invitations unless there is a good
 reason. [redacted] asked if he should pick [redacted] up. [redacted] said he

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Investigation on 10/08/2001 at Portland, Maine

File # 265A-NY-280350-302

Date dictated

SA [redacted] b6
 by SA [redacted] b7C

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would come over to [redacted] apartment the next morning. [redacted] suggested to be there around 8:00 a.m. [redacted] indicated he would drive.

The following day [redacted] walked from his apartment on [redacted] to [redacted] apartment. This was on a weekday, but definitely not a Friday, as that is prayer day. He knocked on [redacted] door. [redacted] came outside and they left in [redacted] gold Nissan Altima. [redacted] needed to be at the consulate by a certain time. During the drive up to LA, they spoke mostly about religion. During the drive, [redacted] (hereinafter referred to as [redacted]) mentioned that he needed to stop and obtain some photographs of himself for the visa process. They began to look for a place to obtain the photos. They stopped at a Kinkos, but they did not do photographs. They then stopped at a large mall off the I-405 freeway on Sepulvada (phonetic). They walked in together and encountered a photo booth near the entrance. [redacted] got his photo taken in his traditional headwear or turban. This was apparently necessary for the visa. [redacted] was wearing western clothing, including a sport jacket. After obtaining the photos, they got back into the car and drove straight to the consulate in LA.

The consulate is a large white clearly marked building with underground parking. They parked underground and exited the car. [redacted] had his paperwork with him. They went into the reception area. They waited in the lobby. Soon a man came out and greeted [redacted] [redacted] described the man as being in his 40s, approximately 5'8" in height, with a black/grey beard down to his chest, who was wearing a suit. It appeared that [redacted] and the man from the consulate knew each other. It was obvious they had met before. The conversation was in Arabic however. [redacted] did not understand what was exactly said. [redacted] introduced [redacted] to the man as a friend who just became a Muslim. The man switched to English and spoke to [redacted] briefly. [redacted] asked for information regarding Saudi Arabia. Shortly thereafter, [redacted] and the man went behind closed doors. [redacted] waited in the lobby for up to approximately thirty minutes. [redacted] and the man came out together. [redacted] asked the man for a packet of information on Saudi Arabia. The man told him to wait there and retrieved some items for [redacted] The information included a packet of information and Islamic books. During the encounter [redacted] was formal, brief, and official, as if he had a business purpose. After being at the consulate for up to a maximum of one hour, [redacted] left. They returned to the car and [redacted] again drove. They spoke about how nice the interaction was. [redacted] indicated he was successful in getting the visa extension. [redacted] estimated the time was now well past noon.

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While driving they talked of their plan to go to the restaurant because they were both hungry. They drove several miles to the restaurant through surface streets looking for it. They did not have a map and were playing it by ear. [REDACTED] said the restaurant had good food and said he had taken his family there before. That is why he wanted to take [REDACTED] there. [REDACTED] found the restaurant awhile ago. They made a few U-turns, got confused trying to find it, and missed some turns. When questioned further about these driving methods, [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] was not doing those maneuvers intentionally. He found no reason to believe they were being followed or attempting to evade anything.

They finally found the restaurant and parked on the street. They walked inside the small establishment. [REDACTED] observed it be a butcher shop, with deli or bakery style refrigerator cases inside. There were no other customers. [REDACTED] inquired in Arabic to one of the employees. The three workers inside talked Arabic to [REDACTED] briefly. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] they informed him that they do not serve food any longer at the establishment. They only sell meat and operate a butcher shop. The restaurant portion of the establishment was closed down. The people inside recommended another restaurant that serves [REDACTED] that was close by. They walked to this new restaurant.

[REDACTED] described it as a Mediterranean café, which could not be any larger than 500 square feet. After entering, [REDACTED] mentioned that it was time to pray. They both ordered some food, which included humus and grape leaves. There were some other customers, such as take out customers. There were no other dine in customers at this time. Since it was time to pray, out of consideration [REDACTED] asked if [REDACTED] wanted to go to the mosque to pray. [REDACTED] said he would pray right here. [REDACTED] went to the bathroom to wash up before prayer. He was out of [REDACTED] sight for less than five minutes. [REDACTED] waited a short time, took water from the table and went outside to wash up for prayer. This was partially because he realized there was only one bathroom. Whether it was a public or employee bathroom is unclear to [REDACTED] washed near a tree outside. While he was outside washing, [REDACTED] came outside. [REDACTED] laid down a cloth to pray on. They then prayed together for approximately five minutes. They then returned inside to eat.

The only time [REDACTED] was apart from [REDACTED] was the less than five minutes he was washing in the bathroom. When asked why he did not mention that in earlier interviews, [REDACTED] responded that he did not consider that time as [REDACTED] being away, because it would have been synonymous with prayer or preparing to pray. He did not bring it up because he still considered himself to be together with [REDACTED] It was

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purely a matter of semantics and misunderstanding. When asked if [REDACTED] could have been making phone or cell phone calls during this time away, [REDACTED] doubted it. He did not notice a public phone in the establishment. [REDACTED] did have his cell phone with him but [REDACTED] did not remember him getting or making any calls at the restaurant. [REDACTED] did not think [REDACTED] would have had the time to be making calls while he was washing.

There were two workers inside the café. They both spoke English. [REDACTED] did not appear to know either of them. There was an older man cooking in the back. The female waitress indicated that he was her father.

While eating, they engaged in normal conversation. Two men came into the establishment. (The men were later determined to be NAWAF AL-HAZMI DOB: 08/09/1976 and KHALID AL-MIHDHAR DOB: 10/15/1966). [REDACTED] now realizes that the men were Nawaf Al-Hazmi and Khalid Al-Mihdhar. Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar sat down inside. They appeared to be Arabic, even though they were dressed in western clothes. [REDACTED] was wearing western clothes, but may have also had a head covering. He is not sure. How the first interaction occurred between the two men and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is unclear. The best possibility is that they overheard the men speaking Arabic or the men overheard [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] say something Islamic. [REDACTED] is not positive who approached who first. At any rate, it seemed like a coincidental meeting. There was nothing to indicate [REDACTED] knew the two men or they knew [REDACTED] did not know either man. Introductions started and [REDACTED] was "the host" from the beginning to the end of the meeting. [REDACTED] translated and let [REDACTED] know what was occurring during the conversation between [REDACTED] and Al-Mihdhar. This was because the conversations were in Arabic and [REDACTED] did not understand it well.

[REDACTED] invited Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar to eat with them. [REDACTED] did not find this unusual as this was the type of person [REDACTED] was. [REDACTED] is very generous. They sat at a table right next to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Al-Mihdhar and Al-Hazmi sat across from each other, as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were doing. [REDACTED] drew a rough diagram of the restaurant and where they were sitting. (The diagram will be maintained in the 1A section of the case file).

The conversation continued. From [REDACTED] perspective, it did not seem serious. The three of them were smiling, laughing and getting to know each other. [REDACTED] recalls Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar having "chi" or tea. They also shared some of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] food after being

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offered. [REDACTED] estimated the meeting lasted for awhile, but not any longer than one hour.

During the conversations, [REDACTED] learned that Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar just came from Saudi Arabia and were students. They wanted to study English. They were currently living in LA, somewhere in the area of the restaurant, and did not like LA. Al-Hazmi was doing most of the talking with [REDACTED]. Al-Mihdhar was less talkative. At the end of the meal/meeting, [REDACTED] gave his phone number to Al-Hazmi. [REDACTED] is not sure, but believes [REDACTED] also got their phone number. [REDACTED] told Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar that they lived in San Diego and invited them to San Diego to check it out. [REDACTED] told them if they liked San Diego, he would be able to and was happy to help them. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] left the restaurant first. Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar stayed behind.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] left in [REDACTED] car. They went to the Culver City mosque for sunset prayer. They spent approximately fifteen to twenty minutes there. The mosque was a few blocks from the restaurant. It could possibly be located on Washington Street. After prayer, [REDACTED] drove them back to San Diego. [REDACTED] recalls [REDACTED] calling his wife on his cell phone advising her he was on his way home. They made no additional stops. When they reached San Diego, [REDACTED] dropped [REDACTED] off on Beadnell Way and departed.

[REDACTED] was asked why he previously reported the first time he met Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar was at the party they had at their Mt. Ada Road apartment after moving to San Diego. [REDACTED] reminded the agents that he has ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder). Although he does have a good memory, he remembers some things better than others. The direct questioning by SA [REDACTED] yesterday regarding the meeting and surrounding circumstances jarred his memory. When he was at Al-Hazmi's and Al-Mihdhar's apartment on the day of the party, he spent four or five hours there. He specifically remembered this event right away because of the significant amount of time he spent with them that day. At the time of the earlier interviews (10/04/2001 and 10/06/2001), he believed that the party was the first time he met the individuals until later realizing he did have an earlier chance meeting with them. Just as [REDACTED] explained to SA [REDACTED] yesterday, he was confusing two events at the same restaurant and was unsure who he met during one of the occasions. [REDACTED] was hesitant to provide misleading or inaccurate information to the agents, or say something he was unsure of. [REDACTED] also noted the difficulty in remembering something that occurred nearly two years ago.

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The first time [REDACTED] was at the Mediterranean restaurant/café was the occasion he was with [REDACTED] as described above. The second occasion was months later during 2000, when he was in the LA area for a different issue. He was living in Santa Barbara at the time. He prayed at the nearby Culver City Mosque that day. He knew of the restaurant from his earlier visit and decided to stop and eat there. [REDACTED] was alone in LA at this time. He seems to recall meeting someone he knew from his past travels while in the restaurant on this occasion. He cannot recall who exactly he met however. This is one of the reasons he was confused earlier on the issue.

When asked if he could have been used by [REDACTED] in some way concerning this meeting, [REDACTED] said he did not think so. However, due to what happened on September 11, 2001, he now believes that there is a remote possibility. Regarding whether he was used in any manner, such as for an alibi or cover, in any of [REDACTED] activities, [REDACTED] said if he was used for this purpose he never realized it and [REDACTED] did a good job. [REDACTED] noted that he heard from his ex-wife, [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] was making fun of [REDACTED] behind his back. He never knew whether to believe it.

[REDACTED] would not be talking with the FBI if he didn't think that [REDACTED] could be involved in the terrorist activity somehow. However, [REDACTED] prefaced this statement by saying that he would be very surprised to find out [REDACTED] was involved in terrorist activity. When asked what in particular may lead him to think [REDACTED] could be involved in terrorist activity, [REDACTED] said if [REDACTED] was truly on the plane that crashed, and his identity was not stolen, [REDACTED] association with [REDACTED] becomes interesting. [REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] spent a lot of time together. [REDACTED] claimed to have no current contact with [REDACTED] and no knowledge of his current whereabouts. The last time they spoke was in 2000.

After [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] returned from the LA trip, he heard [REDACTED] mention Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar in passing on approximately two occasions. The conversations are difficult to remember because [REDACTED] did not consider them significant. On one occasion, [REDACTED] if he remembered the men they met in LA. [REDACTED] indicated something to the effect that they will possibly move to San Diego and came down to visit. Another time [REDACTED] mentioned that they were coming down, possibly meaning they were moving to San Diego.

There was a housewarming/welcome party for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] after they moved into their [REDACTED] apartment. This is

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the party that [REDACTED] threw for them, as explained in previous statements. [REDACTED] recalled this as his "first significant interaction" with Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar, until his memory was refreshed yesterday. This event was the strongest thing in his mind at the time. This partially caused [REDACTED] to report this as the first time he met Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar. During the party, there was a large piece of plastic in the middle of the floor. Everyone sat on the floor around the edges. The attendees ate from containers placed in the middle of the plastic. [REDACTED] Al-Hazmi, and Al-Mihdhar were doing the preparation, cooking, and serving. [REDACTED] at the request of [REDACTED] filmed some of the party. At one point, [REDACTED] got in front of the camera and said a few words. This included why they were gathering and the date. Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar were captured on the tape as well. Some attendees were sensitive about not being filmed.

At one point in time, [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that he was the "guarantor" for the apartment of Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar. [REDACTED] wanted to correct something SA [REDACTED] may have misunderstood from an earlier statement. Regarding how many occasions he was at Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar's apartment, [REDACTED] said it was between ten and twenty times. Many times he went to the apartment not to visit them, but to catch up with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] spent a lot of time at Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar's apartment. [REDACTED] did not know Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar very well or for very long. [REDACTED] left San Diego a relatively short time after they moved into the apartment. Most of [REDACTED] interaction with Al-Hazmi was when [REDACTED] was also present. This included the occasions when [REDACTED] was at Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar's apartment.

[REDACTED] in San Diego during the time period of December 1999 to February 2000. He was homeless, but two Muslim brothers from ICSD let him sleep at their apartment. He did not spend much time with them or at the apartment. One roommate's name was [REDACTED] LNU (Last Name Unknown). He was in his mid-20s and is a computer programmer. [REDACTED] believes he still lives in that general area of San Diego. He is Yemeni, but may be of Somalian descent. He also has family ties in the Netherlands. The other roommate was [REDACTED] LNU, who [REDACTED] did not know very well. [REDACTED] is approximately 20 to 25 years of age and is an engineer. He returned to Saudi Arabia in early 2000. [REDACTED] lost [REDACTED] contact information. [REDACTED] roommates were both regulars at ICSD and spoke English. They also both knew [REDACTED] very well and for much longer than [REDACTED] did. They would probably be able to provide information regarding [REDACTED]